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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/698,257 | 10/30/2003 | William W. Cheng | 03T004 | 2940 |

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EXAMINER

WELLS, KENNETH B

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2816

DATE MAILED: 12/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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1. The appeal brief filed on 11/8/05 has been received and entered in the case. In view of the arguments contained therein, the previous rejections are now withdrawn and replaced with new rejections, as set forth below.

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

3. Claims 28, 29, 33, 35 and 37-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art figure 1 in the view of Baskett.

The admitted prior art includes all of the limitations of the above-noted claims, except for the limitation of the cascode transistors and the trickle current sources (the recited second and third current sources). Such would have been obvious, however, in view of the teachings of Baskett. In figure 1 of Baskett, note cascode transistors 12 and 14, and also note the trickle current sources 16 and 18. Also note the discussion by Baskett of the benefits of these transistors (thus providing the motivation for one of ordinary skill in the art to add such cascode transistors

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and trickle current sources to the circuitry shown in instant figure 1).

4. In view of the above-noted new grounds of rejection, this office action is non-final.


5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kenneth B. Wells whose telephone number is (571)272-1757. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy P. Callahan, can be reached at (571)272-1740. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair->

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Kenneth B. Wells
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2816

December 23, 2005